

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #) or, (previously re-presented).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method for preparing a hub document which describes entity declarations for referring to entities of documents individually corresponding to a plurality of non-structured documents in order to prepare a single hub document format structured document from the plurality of non-structured documents, comprising:

setting in advance an original document storage file-system directory for storing the non-structured documents and a structured document file-system ~~storage~~ directory for storing structured documents obtained by conversion of the non-structured documents;

storing, each time one of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document is prepared or edited, the non-structured document into the original document ~~storage~~ file-system directory;

converting the non-structured documents stored in the original document ~~storage~~ file-system directory into structured documents and storing the structured documents into the structured document ~~storage~~ file-system directory;

automatically adding entity declarations to the hub document responsive to the presence of the structured documents in the structured document file-system directory by acquiring document names of the plurality of structured documents stored in the structured document ~~storage~~ file-system directory and preparing corresponding entity declarations referring to the structured documents;

~~and automatically preparing the hub document based on the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the original document ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory and the structured document ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory, an attachment file ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and entity declarations regarding the attachment files is set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the attachment file ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the original document ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory and the structured document ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory, an attachment file ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and an entity declaration ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory for storing entity declarations regarding the attachment files are set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration ~~storage directory~~ file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration ~~storage directory~~ file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration ~~storage directory~~ file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity

declaration ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration ~~storage-directory~~file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

13. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

14. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

15. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

16. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

17. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

18. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

19. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

20. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

21. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

22. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

23. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

24. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

25. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

26. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

27. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

28. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

29. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

30. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

31. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

32. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

33. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

34. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

35. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

36. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

37. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

38. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

39. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

40. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

41. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

42. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

43. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

44. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

45. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

46. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

47. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

48. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

49. (NEW) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 1.

50. (NEW) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 2.

51. (NEW) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 3.

52. (NEW) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 4.

53. (NEW) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 7.

54. (NEW) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 13.

55. (NEW) A volatile or non-volatile computer-readable storage storing information for a computer to perform a method according to claim 25.

56. (NEW) A hub document preparation apparatus for preparing a hub document which describes entity declarations for referring to entities of documents individually corresponding to a plurality of non-structured documents in order to prepare a single hub document format structured document from the plurality of non-structured documents, comprising:

an original document storage file-system directory setting in advance and storing the non-structured documents and a structured document file-system directory storing structured documents obtained by conversion of the non-structured documents, where each time one of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document is prepared or edited, the non-structured document is stored into the original document file-system directory, where the non-structured documents stored in the original document file-system directory are converted into structured documents and the structured documents are stored into the structured document file-system directory; and

entity declarations that are automatically added to the hub document responsive to the presence of the structured documents in the structured document file-system directory by acquiring document names of the structured documents stored in the structured document file-system directory and preparing corresponding entity declarations referring to the structured documents.

57. (NEW) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein, in addition to the original document file-system directory and the structured document file-system directory, an attachment file file-system directory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and entity declarations regarding the attachment files is set in advance,

and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file file-system directory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file file-system directory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the attachment file file-system directory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

58. (NEW) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein, in addition to the original document file-system directory and the structured document file-system directory, an attachment file file-system directory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and an entity declaration file-system directory for storing entity declarations regarding the attachment files are set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file file-system directory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file file-system directory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

59. (NEW) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

60. (NEW) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration file-system directory have file names corresponding to file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

61. (NEW) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

62. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

63. (NEW) A hub document preparation method, comprising:
manually placing unstructured document files in a pre-determined file-system directory;
when preparing the hub document, automatically responding to the presence of the unstructured document files in the pre-determined directory by converting the unstructured document files to corresponding structured document files, where structure of the structured documents is given by markup tags included therein;

determining structured documents to be referenced in the hub document by automatically acquiring a list of filenames of the respective structured document files in the pre-determined file-system directory, preparing corresponding entity declarations, and adding same to the hub document, where but-for the presence of the structured documents in the pre-determined file-system directory they would not be referenced in the hub document and where the presence of the structured documents in the pre-determined file-system is what determines that they are to be referenced in the document directory; and
preparing a hub-document.